

## CLAIMS

1. A surfactant composition which is capable of being formulated for use in a non-liquid detergent composition, said surfactant composition comprising:

- 5 a) a nonionic surfactant having a melting point of 30°C or less;  
b) an anionic surfactant having sulfonate group; and  
c) an immobilization agent for said a) component,

wherein said b) component is formulated in an amount of from 0 to 300 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of said a) component, and wherein said c) component is formulated in an amount of from 1 to 100 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of said a) component, and wherein the surfactant composition has:

- 15 (1) a temperature range that a viscosity of the composition is 10 Pa·s or less at a temperature equal to or higher than a pour point of the surfactant composition; and  
(2) a temperature range that a penetrating hardness of the composition is 100 g/cm<sup>2</sup> or more in a temperature range between a temperature lower than the pour point of the composition and a temperature higher than the melting point of said a) component.

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2. The surfactant composition according to claim 1, wherein the surfactant composition has a temperature range that a rate of change in an absolute value of the penetrating hardness is 10 g/cm<sup>2</sup>·°C or more in a temperature range between a temperature lower than the pour point of the composition and a temperature higher than the melting point of said a) component.

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3. The surfactant composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said c) component comprises:

5 c-1) an anionic surfactant having carboxylate group or phosphate group excluding anionic surfactants having sulfonate group; and/or

c-2) a compound having a melting point of 35°C or more, and having compatibility with said a) component.

10 4. The surfactant composition according to claim 3, wherein in a case where said c) component comprises c-1) component, the surfactant composition further comprises water as d) component in an amount of from 5 to 25% by weight of the surfactant composition.

15 5. A non-liquid detergent composition comprising from 20 to 2000 parts by weight of a powdery raw material, based on 100 parts by weight of the surfactant composition of any one of claims 1 to 4.

20 6. A powdery detergent composition comprising from 100 to 2000 parts by weight of a powdery raw material, based on 100 parts by weight of the surfactant composition of any one of claims 1 to 4.

25 7. The powdery detergent composition according to claim 6, wherein 60% by weight or more of the powdery raw material, excluding a weight of a surface coating agent when the detergent composition comprises the surface coating agent, is constituted by a base particle obtainable by drying an aqueous slurry

comprising a builder.

8. A process for preparing a non-liquid detergent composition comprising the step of mixing the surfactant composition of any one of claims 1 to 4 with a powdery raw material, under a temperature condition such that a viscosity of the surfactant composition is 10 Pa·s or less.

9. A powdery detergent composition obtainable by the process comprising the steps of:

- (A): mixing the surfactant composition of the present invention with a powdery raw material, under a temperature condition such that a viscosity of the surfactant composition is 10 Pa·s or less; and
- (C) mixing the mixture obtained in step (A) with fine powder to coat the surface of the powdery detergent composition therewith,

wherein the degree of particle growth is 1.5 or less, as calculated by the following equation:

$$\text{Degree of Particle Growth} = \frac{[\text{Average Particle Size of Detergent Composition Obtained in Step (B)}]}{[\text{Average Particle Size of Base Particle}]}$$